

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

NORTON, Eleanor Holmes (Democrat)  
Delegate, District of Columbia  
Elected 1990 to 102nd Congress  
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



### BACKGROUND

Born: Washington, D.C. - 13 June 1937

Home: Washington, D.C.

Marital status: Divorced - 2 children

Religion: Episcopalian

Education: Antioch College, B.A., 1960; Yale U., MA in American Studies, 1963; LL.B., 1964

Military: None

Profession: Lawyer; law professor

Political: Exec asst to New York City Mayor, 1971-74. Succeeded Del Walter Fauntroy (D) who

unsuccessfully sought the Democratic nomination for mayor of Washington, DC.

Defeated

Harry M. Singleton (R) in the 1990 election, winning 62% of the vote. Reelected in 1996 with

90% of the vote, in 1998 with 90% of the votes, and in 2002 with 93%.

Rep Norton is a liberal who focuses on federal employee issues and the District of Columbia's needs. In the 102nd Congress, said she would conduct a public inquiry into DoD's handling of conscientious objector applications during the Persian Gulf conflict. Believes homosexuals/lesbians should not be forced from the military because of their sexual reference.

In the 103<sup>rd</sup> Congress, introduced bills to make D.C. a state and to give the Mayor the same authority over the National Guard as that held by State Governors. Worked hard to save federal employee locality pay. Authored the Family Friendly Leave Act, expanding federal employees' sick leave use.

In the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress, introduced the Nuclear Disarmament and Economic Conversion Act, requiring the US to disable and dismantle its nuclear weapons once foreign countries possessing nuclear weapons enact and executive similar requirements. Noted that Gen Lee Butler, USAF (Ret), is among those who have spoken out on the obsolescence of nuclear weapons and the need for their elimination. Expressed support for the war risk insurance program, observing that it has been activated over 5,000 times since 1975 to support such missions as Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Operation Restore Hope in Somalia, Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti, and Operation Joint Endeavor in Bosnia. With numerous colleagues, introduced legislation to amend the Federal tort claims provisions of 28 USC to repeal the exception for claims arising outside the US. Stated that the bill was in response to the 1996 CT-43 aircraft accident that killed former Sec/Commerce Ron Brown. Commended the Air Force Accident Investigation Board for its honest and forthcoming report. Also expressed support for an amdt to the DoD authorization that would provide up to \$2 million in compensation for each of the families of the victims of that crash. With a colleague, introduced a bill allowing federal employees to cash out their employer-provided parking benefit for another form of compensation. Recognized local Federal employees for contributing a record-setting \$44.3M to the Combined Federal Campaign in 1999.

Additional: Asst legal director, American Civil Liberties Union, 1965-70; head, US Equal Employment Opportunity Cmsn, 1977-81; law professor, Georgetown U., 1982.

Author: Sex Discrimination & the Law: Causes and Remedies, 1975.

AF Bases: Bolling AFB (Also Reserve Forces)

### COMMITTEES

GOVERNMENT REFORM -- Subcs on Civil Service & Agency Organization; Criminal Justice, Drug Policy & Human Resources

SELECT HOMELAND SECURITY – Subcs on Emergency Preparedness & Response; Intelligence & Counterterrorism

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE -- Subcs on Aviation; Economic Development, Public Buildings & Emergency Management – ranking; Water Resources & Environment